

Lincoln County Jail
East side of Federal Street (State Route 218),
0.7 miles north of Main Street (U.S. Route 1)
Wiscasset
Lincoln County
Maine

HABS No. ME-82

HABS
ME
8-WISC
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

LINCOLN COUNTY JAIL

HABS
ME
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Location: Maine, Lincoln County, Wiscasset, East side of Federal St. (State Route 218), 0.7 miles North of Main Street (U. S. Route 1).

Present Owner: Lincoln County Cultural & Historical Association.

Present Occupant: Lincoln County Cultural & Historical Association.

Present Use: Museum.

Brief Statement of Significance: Built for \$6,000, in 1809-1811 as principle penitentiary in state, capacity of 40 prisoners, operated until 1953. The granite for the building, quarried at the mouth of the Sheepscott River, prevented extensive remodeling.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Lincoln County & the Lincoln County Cultural & Historical Association.
2. Date of Erection: 1809-1811
3. Notes on alterations and additions: Only minor alterations occurred at various times, principally c. 1839 when the jailer's house burned.
4. Sources of information: Chase, Fannie S., Wiscasset in Pownalborough (Wiscasset, Maine, 1941) pp. 131-138, illustration p. 128.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Interesting wall bearing masonry, granite walls and floors with iron straps.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 3 stories, rectangular layout, 40' x 36'.
2. Foundations: Granite and bedrock
3. Wall Construction: Granite blocks averaging 1'-6" x 6'-0" x 1'-0". Wall composed of three thickness of such blocks.
4. Porches, stoops, etc.: Granite stoop-steps.
5. Chimneys: Brick, with flat brick caps.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: None exterior, access through stairway that separates jail from Jailer's house.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Smallslits and barred openings, two rows of bars per window.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, with asphalt shingles replacing wood shingles.
 - b. Dormers, cupolas: Closed skylight - third floor.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. First floor: 3 cells each side central corridor
 - b. Second floor: 3 cells each side central corridor
 - c. Attic floor: four compartments, large one used as workshop.
2. Stairways: One wood stair
3. Flooring: Granite slabs. Wide.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: White washed granite.

5. Doorways and doors: Cell doors: Iron straps in two layers, opposite direction, riveted. Small observation slit and slit covering. One door per opening. Two horizontal sliding bolts per door. Cell block doors: Hard wood plank doors, 3" thick.
6. Trim: None.
7. Hardware: Variety of pintles and hinges, hasps, bolts and iron block lock.
8. Lighting: None.
9. Heating: None.

D. Site:

1. Orientation: The building faces northwest toward Federal St. in a residential section of Wiscasset.
2. Outbuildings: Jail attached to 2 story brick jailer's house (1839). One story wood ell common to jail and jailer's house.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, Architect
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National Park Service